(b) To decongest the traffic in the Districts of West and East Godavari between the towns of Kowur and Rajahmundry across the river Godavari.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways is responsible for maintenance and development of National Highways. Since, the proposal is not on National Highway, it is for the State Government to take appropriate action.

Accidents on Highways

1003. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of accidents on Highways in States is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the number of such accidents that occurred during the last three years in the country and Rajasthan, year-wise;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured in the country and Rajasthan, year-wise;

(d) whether the number of road accidents is on the increase due to rash driving, over loading untrained driving, drunken driving, driving without valid license, etc.;

(e) if so, whether Government have taken certain measures to prevent such accidents in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) As reported by the respective States/UT Governments, the details of number of road accidents, persons killed and persons injured on National Highways in the country and Rajasthan during the years 2001,2002 & 2003 are as under:—

Year	Road Accident		Persons Killed		Persons Injured	
	All India	Rajasthan	All India	Rajasthan	All India	Rajasthan
2001	115824	7465	32108	245511	19592(P)	9621
2002	131738	7214	33621	2535	132307	10078
2003	127834	7515	33153	2615	131102	10613

P=Provisional

(d) Information on accident due to rash driving, untrained driving and driving without valid licence is not compiled by this Ministry. As per information available, 6.1% and 5.7% of the accidents on all roads in the country were caused by drunken driving during the year 2002 & 2003 respectively. Similarly, 21% and 23% of the accidents on all roads in the country were caused by overloading during the year 2002 & 2003 respectively.

(e) and (f) Enforcement of safety-related regulations comes under the purview of the State Governments. However, some of the important steps taken by the Central Government to check the road accidents besides highway design are as under:

* Two days refresher training to drivers of heavy motor vehicles in the unorganized sector.
* Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.
* Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media on all aspect of road safety.
* Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.
* Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
* Organizing All India Essay competition on road safety for school children with a view to creating awareness.
* Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.
* Widening and improvements of National Highways etc.,

Safety on National Highways

1004. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to set up a new regulatory body to oversee safety on the National Highways;

(b) whether Government are in the process of appointing a sub-committee that would recommend the structure and scope of this new organization